



the municipal **Advantage** PEOPLE...POWER.

JULY-AUGUST 2023

Works Progress Administration Helps Build City

The Works Progress Administration (WPA), later renamed Work Projects Administration in 1939, was created by Executive Order to fund state and local community public works projects. Many projects within New Ulm were built through this program such as additions to then New Ulm High School (now Emersion Union Apartments) and later auditorium murals (through the Federal Art Project of the Works Progress Administration), several stone structures at Flandrau State Park that are still used today, and many more projects.

• NEW ULM PUBLIC UTILITIES •



In addition, New Ulm investigated securing WPA funding in 1938 for the construction of a sewage disposal plant. At that time, New Ulm utilized a public sewer system that dated back to before the turn of the 20th century. Leadership within New Ulm knew it could not lay claim as a modern or progressive city until it solved sewage issues.

The fall of 1938, WPA granted approval of a new state-of-the-art sewage disposal facility near 20th South Street off the banks of the Minnesota River. New Ulm issued \$125,000 in bonds to cover the city's share of construction expenses while WPA committed spending

WPA continued to page 2...



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NEW ULM PUBLIC UTILITIES NEWSLETTER
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...WPA continued from page 1

\$75,000 to help build the plant. The total cost of the new plant cost just under \$143,500.

In 1971, the city purchased a 105-acre tract southeast of New Ulm for \$57,000 in anticipation of a new wastewater treatment facility to replace the 1938 treatment plant. Before the end of 1976 a new treatment facility would be commissioned and ready for operation. After its completion the Public Utilities had successfully brought the community into compliance with national and state environmental regulations.

■ In 1996, the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) upgraded its biosolids process by adding an Autothermal Thermophilic Aerobic Digestion (ATAD). The upgrade allows us to treat solids further to produce class "A" biosolids that are land-applied. This upgrade also added 3.2 million gallons of biosolids storage and the addition of a third secondary clarifier.

■ In 2006, the wastewater plant added anoxic and anaerobic tanks to treat nutrients, particularly phosphorus, to meet new phosphorus limits to waters

discharged to the Minnesota River. NUPU also upgraded the aging bar screens along with other miscellaneous electrical and diversion piping at the preliminary treatment site.

■ High efficient blowers and air distribution equipment have also been updated. The upgrade was done to better utilize electricity and more efficiently transfer air to our aeration tanks. The plant is designed to treat up to 6.77 million gallons per day.

■ Currently, the WWTP treats an average of 2.5 mgd (million gallons/day) or over 900 million gallons annually.

■ WWTP also produce 4-5 million gallons of municipal bio-solids annually that is land applied to area farm fields in the spring and fall.

With ever changing regulations within the wastewater industry, future upgrades and improvements are always of utmost importance.

QUESTIONS:

1) What program helped fund the construction of the sewage disposal plant?

2) What year was the current wastewater facility commissioned?

JULY-AUGUST TRIVIA DRAWING

ENTER TO WIN!

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Email : _____ Phone: _____
 Answers: 1) _____ 2) _____

ENTER TO WIN!

Email to: DerekN@newulmmn.gov and include the information above.

Please note July-August Trivia in the subject line.

Or mail/deliver to:

New Ulm Public Utilities

310 1st N St, New Ulm, MN 56073

Enter by August 4 - Must be a NUPU customer to enter.



May-June Newsletter Article Q & A Winners

Winners of NUPU Water Department article for our 120th Anniversary can pick up their prizes are the New Ulm Public Utilities office at 310 1st North Street.

Of the 55 entries the randomly drawn winners were:

• Donald Loeck • Kathy Laabs • Randy Sperling • Jerry Carlson • Judy Larson



120th Anniversary Movie in the Park Event



On June 22, New Ulm Public Utilities (NUPU) held its first in-person event since COVID to celebrate its 120th anniversary in German Park. NUPU's Movie in the Park began in early evening with music by Nick Stadick playing his concertina. Food truck vendors were available for those attending, including Lola's, Tommy's Tacos, and Jerseys' Sweet Spot. Free popcorn and 1919 Root Beer were supplied by NUPU until shortly after the start of the free movie, *Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile*.

Children and adults alike

enjoyed hula hoops, jump ropes and other games available in the park. People visiting the park the next day may have noticed the many sidewalk chalk drawings left by the children who attended the event.

Attendees were able to grab a free crocodile squish toy to remember NUPU's first Movie in the Park.

NUPU is planning on holding a yearly Movie in the Park event as a thank you to its customers.

Thank you to all who attended this successful event.



JOIN US WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 4!

Our next 120th Celebration will be held on Wednesday October 4 at the Electric Distribution Department building located behind German Park.



Hot dogs, popcorn, beverages, and chips will be supplied by NUPU from 4 to 7 p.m.

Many different vehicles and other equipment used by utility departments will be on display for customers to look at and become more familiar with as a community owned utility.



LIKE & FOLLOW NUPU ON FACEBOOK!

Find the latest news and announcements, department information, rebate information and forms, along with employment opportunities and more!



LET'S GET THE LEAD OUT!

REMINDER:
We need your help
collecting this data!
THANKS to all who have
completed this form.

GET THE LEAD OUT INITIATIVE.

New Ulm Public Utilities is following the guidelines set by the Minnesota Department of Health and the United States Environmental Protection Agency in the Lead & Copper Rule to collect an inventory of pipe materials used in water service lines and mains.

We need the help of all homeowners in this process!

We ask that you assess the water service line coming into your home and send us that information on a form available on our website. See the QR code and website information below. If you'd prefer to have a representative of the Water Department assess your service line, you can call to make an appointment.

Scan the QR code to direct you to the form.



Or visit our website

<https://forms.ci.new-ulm.mn.us/forms/LeadAndCopperSurvey>

Have questions?

We're here to help with your questions or concerns and are available to set up an appointment to have one of our team members do your assessment if preferred.

NUPU Water Department

(507) 359-8279

NUPU Administration

(507) 233-2110

No computer access?

Complete the form below and mail to or drop it off at:
New Ulm Public Utilities; 310 1st North, New Ulm, MN 56073
or City Hall; 100 North Broadway, New Ulm, MN 56073

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

I am the home, business or property owner _____ I am a renter _____

Service Pipe Material

Copper _____

Plastic _____

Galvanized Steel _____

Lead _____

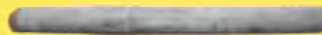
***Please include a picture of the service line.**

I prefer to schedule an evaluation. Please contact me. _____

To identify the material of your service line pipe, find the service line coming into your home - generally in the basement. Lead is a dull grey color and very soft. If scraped with a key, it will turn a bright silver color. Try sticking a magnet to the pipe - even a strong magnet will not stick to lead.



Lead: A dull, silver-gray color that is easily scratched with a coin. Use a magnet - strong magnets will not cling to lead pipes.



Galvanized: A dull, silver-gray color. Use a magnet - strong magnets will typically cling to galvanized pipes.



Copper: The color of a copper penny



Plastic: Smooth, colored, semi-rigid pipe that is joined to the water supply with a clamp.

There is no charge for a representative from the Water Department to assess your line. There is also no obligation to remove or upgrade lines!





Pollinators Play Vital Role in Local Economy and Environment

Timely utility information plays a role in what is

included, and at times, what is not included in our newsletter due to space limitations. June was Pollinators' Month, but the information is valuable all year long. This information is also helpful if you want to plan ahead to incorporate your own native plantings to encourage pollinators.

Pollinators play an important role in our local economy and our environment. Individually, we can all help pollinators while also improving our landscape and conserving water. Many native plants provide food and habitat for pollinators. Native plants such as grasses, sedges and wild flowers, can easily be implemented into any suburban area.

The University of Minnesota Extension and the DNR have many useful resources for individuals interested in planting native plants, trees, and shrubs to establish a pollinator friendly environment.

Visit the following websites for more information:

- extension.umn.edu/lawns-and-landscapes/flowers-pollinators#create-a-pollinator-friendly-landscape-1130060
- dnr.state.mn.us/gardens/nativeplants/index.html

In addition to benefitting pollinators, established areas

with native vegetation help an individual and the community in many ways. Deep roots of many native plants hold soil and prevent erosion, and they help control storm water by taking up water that might otherwise pour into streets and eventually streams and rivers.

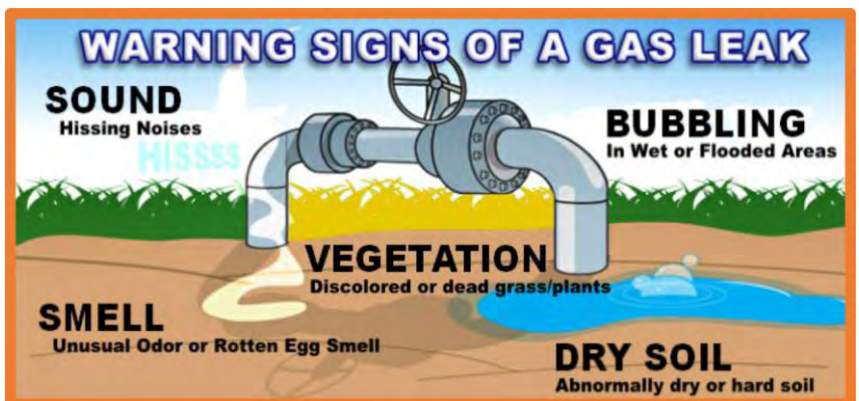


Native plantings also help with water conservation. According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR), Kentucky blue grass lawns (which is what most people have as their lawn) are poorly suited to survive hot summer months without watering. In summer months, 50 percent of a water utilities sales account for lawn and non-native plant watering. MN DNR also states that using native and drought resistant plants in your landscaping will reduce water consumption dramatically. A good starting point is to have 20 percent native plantings within your landscape design. Increasing this percentage over time will help conserve additional water, and help numerous pollinators thrive.



Renewable Energy Option Available

NUPU now has a renewable energy option for residential and business customers. Check out our new Clear Energy Solution REC (Renewable Energy Certificate) program at newulmmn.gov/567/Clear-Energy-Solutions. Questions? Contact Us at 507-233-2110.



★ AT YOUR SERVICE

Employees of the Month Honored

Darlis transitioned to the Water Department from the Gas Dept and quickly became a valuable asset. She is very thorough and able to learn new tasks very well. She has provided a continuity of work for the Water Department after the retirement of Donna Soukup. Darlis brings a friendly personality, handling customer service calls, and provides help to our staff to learn new technological processes of payroll entries. Darlis is an important person to the success of this department.

DARLIS BODE
Clerical
Assistant
WATER/DISTRICT
ENERGY



Suzanne has been extremely helpful getting Laserfiche access up and running for the auditors. While not an area in which she was familiar, she took the time to research any issues and worked with the vendor until any problems were resolved. Suzanne took additional time to work directly with the auditors to make sure connections were working for them. At one point being the only person in the IT department, she was pulled in many directions, but continued to be patient, communicative and friendly to all with whom she worked.

SUZANNE WELS
Computer
Technician I
IT DEPARTMENT



MEMO!

STORM SAFETY

Storm debris can hide dangers, such as downed or sagging power lines. Use caution in any cleanup effort.

Any downed wires should be considered energized and potentially dangerous. Stay away, warn others to stay away, and call the utility.



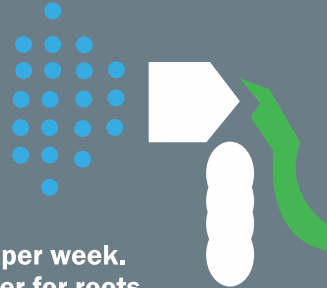
DON'T RELEASE BALLOONS

Balloons, especially metallic coated balloons, can cause explosions and power outages and can short out circuits in the community's power system causing untold dollars' worth of damage. Plus they can harm wildlife.



EFFICIENT LAWN WATERING:

Water landscapes and lawns during the early morning when it is still cool. Lawns need about 1 inch of rain or water per week. Deep soaking is better for roots than frequent shallow watering. Water your lawn infrequently, one time or less per week, assuming no rainfall has occurred. Cut grass 3 to 4 inches.



NEW ULM'S GOT TALENT! 2024 CALENDAR

New Ulm Public Utilities 2024 Conservation & Rebate Calendar will feature talented customers who paint, draw, sculpt, crochet, quilt, refurbish, restore, build, or otherwise create visual works of art. From dabblers, to amateurs, to professionals may submit photos of their creations.

Only high resolution digital photos will be accepted. If you have prints only of a former project, feel free to take cell phone photos of them.

All entries must include your name and brief description of the work (example: Watercolor portrait of Aunt Mary; Restored 1965 Thunderbird), along with any other details you wish to share.



● Email high resolution digital photos to:
DerekN@newulmmn.gov

DEADLINE: OCTOBER 13, 2023 • ANY NUPU CUSTOMER CAN ENTER INCLUDING CITY AND NUPU STAFF!



PEOPLE...POWER. 7

New Ulm Public Utilities
310 1st North Street
New Ulm, Minnesota 56073

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JULY-AUGUST 2023 NEWSLETTER

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NEW ULM PUBLIC UTILITIES
310 1st North Street

MAIN NUMBER	233-2110
Billings & Connections	359-8259
Administration	359-8264
Electric Distribution Dept	359-8295
Gas Dept	359-8289
Material Distribution Center	233-2134
Power Plant Chief Engineer	233-2128
Power Plant Operator	233-2129
Utilities Director	359-8264
Wastewater Treatment Plant	359-8360
Water/Steam Dept	359-8279
AFTER HOURS ALL CALLS	359-8204